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Redevelopment Board Minutes 06/30/2008

Arlington Redevelopment Minutes
Minutes of June 30, 2008

Members Present: Christopher Loret
Andrew West
Roland Chaput
Bruce Fitzsimmons

Also Present: Kevin J. O'Brien

Andrew West called the meeting to order at 7:00 and announced the continued hearing to amend the permit for 7 Central Street. Kevin O'Brien gave the Board a letter from the applicant's attorney indicating they requested a further continuance and agreeing to extend the time the Board has to act on the application to August 11, 2008. Roland Chaput moved that the hearing be continued to August 11, 2008 at 8PM. Chris Loret seconded the motion and the Board voted 4 to 0 to approve.

The Board then took the opportunity to discuss new and old business. It signed letters of support for the extension of the MBTA Green Line to Alewife Brook Parkway and to support the concept of a park along Mill Brook. The Board reviewed material submitted by the Housing Authority's architect relative to EDR standard no. 12 for the addition of a second elevator at Cusack Terrace senior housing, determined it was adequate, and signed the decision amending Docket 2330. The Board reviewed material documenting the amount of money spent on demolition the former nurses residence at the Symmes project, and discussed the notification of the Lahey/Healthsouth partners relative to the encounter of oil stained rock in the process of construction at the Symmes site. The Board was given a memo explaining the Traffic Demand Management project the TAC and the Planning Department were conducting starting with the Parmenter School building.

At 8PM, Andrew West opened the continued hearing regarding the placement of a wireless communication facility on one of the buildings being constructed at the Symmes site. Brian Grossman represented the applicant Omnipoint Communications / T-Mobile. Mr. Grossman presented the changes that had been made since the last hearing, explaining that the had reduced the height of the chimneys in which the antenna were to be located, and increased the height of all the chimneys on buildings 3 and 4 to match. He also indicated that they changed the location of one of the antenna arrays, moving it to a chimney on the south end of building 3.

The Board asked how the granting of the permit affected the plans that had been approved for the Symmes residential building on which the antenna are proposed to be installed. Kevin O'Brien explained that the antenna permit was a separate permit and could be approved without changing the permit for the building. The Board acknowledged that raising the height of all the chimneys was consistent with the 100% plans for the Symmes residential buildings and was desirable.

Bruce Fitzsimmons moved that the Board approve the permit for the requested wireless communications antenna in accordance with plans prepared by Adams AEG Engineering Group, LLC, dated 6/28/08 with all nine chimneys on buildings 3 and 4 built in accordance with the 100% plans of the Symmes Residential Building (docket #3272) with the exception that the chimneys are to be six feet in height above the screen wall. Chris Loret seconded the motion and the Board voted 4 to 0 in favor.

At 8:30 the Board began a discussion with Christine Szypinski or Waterfield Design regarding the choice of a light standard for the Arlington Center mall lights. After significant review of past decisions, the Board narrowed down the choices and asked that the distributor of the lights provide some samples to help the Board make its decision. Ms. Szypinski will arrange to have the samples viewed by board members so a decision can be made at the Board's July 14th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin J. O'Brien